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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Applications for New Awards; Disability and Rehabilitation Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program -- Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT) Projects

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Department of Education

ACTION: Notice.

Overview Information:

Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program -- Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT) Projects

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2012.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.133P-1.

Dates:

Applications Available: [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

Date of Pre-Application Meeting: [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The purpose of this program is to provide advanced research training and experience to individuals with doctorates, or similar advanced degrees, who have clinical or other relevant experience. ARRT projects train rehabilitation researchers, including researchers with disabilities, with particular attention to research areas that support the implementation and objectives of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Act), and that improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Act.

Note: This program is in concert with NIDRR's currently approved long range plan (the Plan). The Plan is comprehensive and integrates many issues relating to disability and rehabilitation research topics. The Plan, which was published in the <u>Federal Register</u> on February 15, 2006 (71 FR 8166), can be accessed on the Internet at the following site:

http://www2.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2006-1/021506d.html Through the implementation of the Plan, NIDRR seeks to

(1) improve the quality and utility of disability and
rehabilitation research; (2) foster an exchange of
expertise, information, and training to facilitate the
advancement of knowledge and understanding of the unique
needs of individuals with disabilities from traditionally
underserved populations; (3) determine the best strategies
and programs to improve rehabilitation outcomes for
individuals with disabilities from underserved populations;
(4) identify research gaps; (5) identify mechanisms of
integrating research and practice; and (6) disseminate
findings.

<u>Priorities</u>: This program contains one absolute and one invitational priority. In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(ii), this absolute priority is from the regulations for this program (34 CFR 350.12 and 350.64 through 350.65).

Absolute Priority: For FY 2012, and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applicants from this competition, this priority is an absolute priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet this priority.

This priority is:

Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Projects ARRT projects must (1) recruit and select candidates for advanced research training; (2) provide a training program that includes didactic and classroom instruction, is multidisciplinary, and emphasizes scientific methodology, and may involve collaboration among institutions; (3) provide research experience, laboratory experience or its equivalent in a community-based research setting, and a practicum that involve each individual in clinical research and in practical activities with organizations representing individuals with disabilities; (4) provide academic mentorship or guidance, and opportunities for scientific collaboration with qualified researchers at the host university and other appropriate institutions; and (5) provide opportunities for participation in the development of professional presentations and publications, and for attendance at professional conferences and meetings, as appropriate for the individual's field of study and level of experience.

An ARRT project must provide training to individuals for at least one academic year, unless a longer training period is necessary to ensure that each trainee is qualified to conduct independent research upon completion

of the course of training; and (2) require trainees to devote at least 80 percent of their time to the activities of the training program during the training period

NOTE: We expect applicants to articulate goals, objectives, and expected outcomes for the research training activities. Applicants should describe expected public benefits of these training activities, especially benefits for individuals with disabilities, and propose projects that are optimally designed to demonstrate outcomes that are consistent with the proposed goals. Applicants are encouraged to include information describing how they will measure outcomes, including the indicators for determining that results have occurred. Submission of this measurement information is voluntary, except where required by the selection criteria listed in the application package.

Within this absolute priority, we are particularly interested in applications that address the following invitational priority.

<u>Invitational Priority</u>: Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) we do not give an application that meets this invitational priority a competitive or absolute preference over other applications. This priority is:

For FY 2012, the Secretary is particularly interested in applications that provide advanced research training to eligible individuals to enhance the capacity to conduct high-quality multidisciplinary disability policy research, aimed at improving the data sources, analytic strategies, and evidence base used to inform policy and program development affecting individuals with disabilities in the major life domains of employment, health and function and community living and participation.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 762(k).

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department

General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts

74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, and 97. (b) The

regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 350.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

Estimated Available Funds: \$600,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$147,000 to \$150,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$150,000.

Maximum Award: We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$150,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services may change the

maximum amount through a notice published in the <u>Federal</u> Register.

Note: Consistent with 34 CFR 75.562, indirect cost reimbursement for a training grant is limited to eight percent of a modified total direct cost base, defined as total direct costs less stipends, tuition and related fees, equipment and the amount of each subaward in excess of \$25,000. Indirect costs can also be determined in the grantee's negotiated indirect cost rate agreement if that amount is less than the amount calculated under the formula above.

Estimated Number of Awards: 4.

<u>Note</u>: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 60 months. We will reject any application that proposes a project period exceeding 60 months. The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services may change the maximum project period through a notice published in the Federal Register.

III. Eligibility Information

1. <u>Eligible Applicants</u>: Institutions of higher education.

- 2. <u>Cost Sharing or Matching</u>: This program does not require cost sharing or matching. However, any applicant may voluntarily promise to share in the cost of the ARRT project by supplementing the amount of the stipend paid to trainees with additional funds beyond the maximum awarded under this program. The policies governing grantee costsharing or matching are as follows:
 - a. Cost-sharing or matching is the portion of project costs not borne by the Federal Government.
 Applications submitted under this program with voluntary cost-sharing to supplement trainee stipends must use funds from non-Federal sources.
 - b. Any cost-sharing promised by the grantee in its application must be fully documented and accounted for in the grantee's budget and expenditure records and reports. Applications submitted for funding that have voluntary cost-sharing must include--
 - The specific contributions proposed;
 - The source of the cost-sharing; and
 - In the case of in-kind contributions, a description of how the value was determined for the donated or contributed services or goods.

c. It is the policy of the Department that this additional cost share or match becomes part of the grantee's budget and therefore a condition of the grant.

According to 34 CFR 74.25, any changes to an applicant's budget can be made only with the prior written approval of the Department.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package: You can obtain an application package via the Internet or from the Education Publications Center (ED Pubs). To obtain a copy via the Internet, use the following address:

www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html. To obtain a copy from ED Pubs, write, fax, or call the following: ED Pubs, U.S. Department of Education, P.O. Box 22207, Alexandria, VA 22304. Telephone, toll free: 1-877-433-7827. FAX: (703) 605-6794. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call, toll free: 1-877-576-7734.

You can contact ED Pubs at its Web site, also: www.EDPubs.gov or at its e-mail address: edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

If you request an application from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this program as follows: CFDA number 84.133P.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) by contacting the person or team listed under <u>Accessible Format</u> in section VIII of this notice.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission:

Requirements concerning the content of an application, are in the application package for this program, including the requirement for an applicant to provide assurances that it will comply with 34 CFR §§ 350.64 and 350.65. The application package also provides the forms you must submit.

Page Limit: The application narrative (Part III of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. We recommend that you limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 75 pages, using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and

captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).
- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman,
 Courier, Courier New, or Arial. An application submitted in
 any other font (including Times Roman or Arial Narrow) will
 not be accepted.

The page limit does not apply to Part I, the cover sheet; Part II, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; Part IV, the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, the page limit does apply to all of the application project narrative section (Part III).

Applicants should consult NIDRR's Long-Range Plan when preparing their applications. The Plan is organized around the following research domains and arenas: (1) Community Living and Participation; (2) Health and Function; (3) Technology; (4) Employment; and (5) Demographics.

Applicants should indicate, for each application, the domain or arena under which they are applying. In their applications, applicants should clearly indicate whether

they are applying for a research grant in the area of (1)

Community Living and Participation; (2) Health and

Function; (3) Technology; (4) Employment; or (5)

Demographics.

3. Submission Dates and Times:

Applications Available: [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

Date of Pre-Application Meeting: Interested parties are invited to participate in a pre-application meeting and to receive information and technical assistance through individual consultation with NIDRR staff. application meeting will be held on [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]. Interested parties may participate in this meeting by conference call with NIDRR staff from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., Washington, DC time. NIDRR staff also will be available from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the same day, by telephone, to provide information and technical assistance through individual consultation. further information or to make arrangements to participate in the meeting via conference call or for an individual consultation, contact Marlene Spencer, U.S. Department of

Education, Potomac Center Plaza (PCP), room 5133, 550 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 245-7532 or by e-mail: Marlene.Spencer@ed.gov.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

Applications for grants under this program must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (Grants.gov). For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, or in paper format by mail or hand delivery if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, please refer to section IV. 7. Other Submission Requirements of this notice.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

Individuals with disabilities who need an accommodation or auxiliary aid in connection with the application process should contact the person listed under For Further Information Contact in section VII of this notice. If the Department provides an accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability in connection with the application process, the individual's

application remains subject to all other requirements and limitations in this notice.

- 4. <u>Intergovernmental Review</u>: This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79.
- 5. <u>Funding Restrictions</u>: We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the <u>Applicable</u>
 Regulations section of this notice.
- 6. <u>Data Universal Numbering System Number, Taxpayer</u>

 <u>Identification Number, and Central Contractor Registry</u>: To

 do business with the Department of Education, you must--
- a. Have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN);
- b. Register both your DUNS number and TIN with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR), the Government's primary registrant database;
- c. Provide your DUNS number and TIN on your application; and
- d. Maintain an active CCR registration with current information while your application is under review by the Department and, if you are awarded a grant, during the project period.

You can obtain a DUNS number from Dun and Bradstreet.

A DUNS number can be created within one business day.

If you are a corporate entity, agency, institution, or organization, you can obtain a TIN from the Internal Revenue Service. If you are an individual, you can obtain a TIN from the Internal Revenue Service or the Social Security Administration. If you need a new TIN, please allow 2-5 weeks for your TIN to become active.

The CCR registration process may take five or more business days to complete. If you are currently registered with the CCR, you may not need to make any changes.

However, please make certain that the TIN associated with your DUNS number is correct. Also note that you will need to update your CCR registration on an annual basis. This may take three or more business days to complete.

In addition, if you are submitting your application via Grants.gov, you must (1) be designated by your organization as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR); and (2) register yourself with Grants.gov as an AOR. Details on these steps are outlined at the following Grants.gov Web page:

www.grants.gov/applicants/get registered.jsp.

- 7. Other Submission Requirements: Applications for grants under this program must be submitted electronically unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement in accordance with the instructions in this section.
- a. <u>Electronic Submission of Applications</u>.

 Applications for grants under the ARRT Projects program,

 CFDA Number 84.133P-1, must be submitted electronically

 using the Governmentwide Grants.gov Apply site at

 www.Grants.gov. Through this site, you will be able to

 download a copy of the application package, complete it

 offline, and then upload and submit your application. You

 may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to

 us.

We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless, as described elsewhere in this section, you qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. Further information regarding calculation of the date that is two weeks before the application deadline date is provided later in this section under Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement.

You may access the electronic grant application for ARRT Projects at www.Grants.gov. You must search for the downloadable application package for this program by CFDA number. Do not include the CFDA number's alpha suffix in your search (e.g., search for 84.133, not 84.133P).

Please note the following:

- When you enter the Grants.gov site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site, as well as the hours of operation.
- Applications received by Grants.gov are date and time stamped. Your application must be fully uploaded and submitted and must be date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system no later than 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. Except as otherwise noted in this section, we will not accept your application if it is received--that is, date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system--after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements. When we retrieve your application from Grants.gov, we will notify you if we are rejecting your application because it was date and time

stamped by the Grants.gov system after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.

- The amount of time it can take to upload an application will vary depending on a variety of factors, including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the submission process through Grants.gov.
- You should review and follow the Education

 Submission Procedures for submitting an application through

 Grants.gov that are included in the application package for

 this program to ensure that you submit your application in

 a timely manner to the Grants.gov system. You can also

 find the Education Submission Procedures pertaining to

 Grants.gov under News and Events on the Department's G5

 system homepage at www.G5.gov.
- You will not receive additional point value because you submit your application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, as described elsewhere in this section, and submit your application in paper format.

- You must submit all documents electronically, including all information you typically provide on the following forms: the Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424), the Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424, Budget Information--Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.
- You must upload any narrative sections and all other attachments to your application as files in a .PDF (Portable Document) read-only, non-modifiable format. Do not upload an interactive or fillable .PDF file. If you upload a file type other than a read-only, non-modifiable .PDF or submit a password-protected file, we will not review that material. Additional, detailed information on how to attach files is in the application instructions.
- Your electronic application must comply with any page limit requirements described in this notice.
- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive from Grants.gov an automatic notification of receipt that contains a Grants.gov tracking number.

 (This notification indicates receipt by Grants.gov only, not receipt by the Department.) The Department then will retrieve your application from Grants.gov and send a second

notification to you by e-mail. This second notification indicates that the Department has received your application and has assigned your application a PR/Award number (an ED-specified identifying number unique to your application).

 We may request that you provide us original signatures on forms at a later date.

Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of Technical

Issues with the Grants.gov System: If you are experiencing problems submitting your application through Grants.gov, please contact the Grants.gov Support Desk, toll free, at 1-800-518-4726. You must obtain a Grants.gov Support Desk

Case Number and must keep a record of it.

If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because of technical problems with the Grants.gov system, we will grant you an extension until 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, the following business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically or by hand delivery. You also may mail your application by following the mailing instructions described elsewhere in this notice.

If you submit an application after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date, please contact the person listed under For Further

Information Contact in section VII of this notice and provide an explanation of the technical problem you experienced with Grants.gov, along with the Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number. We will accept your application if we can confirm that a technical problem occurred with the Grants.gov system and that that problem affected your ability to submit your application by 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. The Department will contact you after a determination is made on whether your application will be accepted.

<u>Note</u>: The extensions to which we refer in this section apply only to the unavailability of, or technical problems with, the Grants.gov system. We will not grant you an extension if you failed to fully register to submit your application to Grants.gov before the application deadline date and time or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the Grants.gov system.

Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement: You qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, and may submit your application in paper format, if you are unable to submit an application through the Grants.gov system because--

• You do not have access to the Internet; or

 You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to the Grants.gov system;

and

• No later than two weeks before the application deadline date (14 calendar days or, if the fourteenth calendar day before the application deadline date falls on a Federal holiday, the next business day following the Federal holiday), you mail or fax a written statement to the Department, explaining which of the two grounds for an exception prevent you from using the Internet to submit your application.

If you mail your written statement to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. If you fax your written statement to the Department, we must receive the faxed statement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

Address and mail or fax your statement to: Marlene Spencer, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5133, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2700. FAX: (202) 245-7323.

Your paper application must be submitted in accordance with the mail or hand delivery instructions described in this notice.

b. Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you may mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier) your application to the Department. You must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133P-1) LBJ Basement Level 1 400 Maryland Avenue, SW. Washington, DC 20202-4260

You must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.
- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.
- (4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

- (1) A private metered postmark.
- (2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

c. Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery.

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you (or a courier service) may deliver your paper application to the Department by hand. You must deliver the original and two copies of your application by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133P-1) 550 12th Street, SW. Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza Washington, DC 20202-4260 The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications: If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department--

- (1) You must indicate on the envelope and--if not provided by the Department--in Item 11 of the SF 424 the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the program under which you are submitting your application; and
- (2) The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

V. Application Review Information

- 1. <u>Selection Criteria</u>: The selection criteria for this program are from 34 CFR 350.54 and are listed in the application package.
- 2. Review and Selection Process: We remind potential applicants that in reviewing applications in any

discretionary grant competition, the Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.217(d)(3), the past performance of the applicant in carrying out a previous award, such as the applicant's use of funds, achievement of project objectives, and compliance with grant conditions. The Secretary may also consider whether the applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality.

In addition, in making a competitive grant award, the Secretary also requires various assurances including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of Education (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

- 3. Special Conditions: Under 34 CFR 74.14 and 80.12, the Secretary may impose special conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance; has a financial or other management system that does not meet the standards in 34 CFR parts 74 or 80, as applicable; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.
- VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices: If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN). We may notify you informally, also.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements:
We identify administrative and national policy requirements
in the application package and reference these and other
requirements in the <u>Applicable Regulations</u> section of this
notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the <u>Applicable Regulations</u> section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. Reporting: (a) If you apply for a grant under this competition, you must ensure that you have in place the necessary processes and systems to comply with the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 170 should you receive funding under the competition. This does not apply if you have an exception under 2 CFR 170.110(b).

- (b) At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as directed by the Secretary under 34 CFR 75.118. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on reporting, please go to www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html.
- 4. Performance Measures: To evaluate the overall success of its research program, NIDRR assesses the quality of its funded projects through review of grantee performance and products. Each year, NIDRR examines a portion of its grantees to determine the extent to which grantees are conducting high-quality research and related activities that lead to high quality products. Performance measures for the ARRT Projects program include--
- The percentage of NIDRR-supported fellows, post-doctoral trainees, and doctoral students who publish results of NIDRR-sponsored research in refereed journals.

• The average number of publications per award based on NIDRR-funded research and development activities in refereed journals.

NIDRR uses information submitted by grantees as part of their Annual Performance Reports (APRs) to assess performance. NIDRR also determines, using information submitted as part of the grantees' APR, the number of publications in refereed journals that are based on NIDRR-funded research and development activities.

Department of Education program performance reports, which include information on NIDRR programs, are available on the Department's Web site:

www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/opepd/sas/index.html.

5. Continuation Awards: In making a continuation award, the Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.253, the extent to which a grantee has made "substantial progress toward meeting the objectives in its approved application." This consideration includes the review of a grantee's progress in meeting the targets and projected outcomes in its approved application, and whether the grantee has expended funds in a manner that is consistent with its approved application and budget. In making a continuation grant, the Secretary also considers whether the grantee is

operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23). VII. Agency Contact

For Further Information Contact: Either Lynn Medley or Marlene Spencer as follows: Lynn Medley, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5140, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2700. Telephone: (202) 245-7338 or by e-mail: Lynn.Medley@ed.gov. Marlene Spencer, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5133, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2700. Telephone: (202) 245-7532 or by e-mail: Marlene.Spencer@ed.gov.

If you use a TDD call the call the Federal Relay Service, toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

VIII. Other Information

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) by contacting the Grants and Contracts Services Team, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5075, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2550. Telephone: (202) 245-7363. If you use a TDD, call the FRS, toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the Federal Register. Free Internet access to the official edition of the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations is available via the Federal Digital System at:

document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the Federal Register, in text or Adobe

Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have

Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

www.gpo.gov/fdsys. At this site you can view this

You may also access documents of the Department published in the <u>Federal Register</u> by using the article search feature at: www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Dated: December 27, 2011

Alexa Posny,
Assistant Secretary for
Special Education and
Rehabilitative Services.

[FR Doc. 2011-33607 Filed 12/29/2011 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 12/30/2011]